

FAMILY PLANNING TASMANIA INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 50th anniversary of Family Planning Tasmania.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

Your 50th anniversary is historic and significant. Family Planning Tasmania carries out a highly important and valued role in working to constantly improve sexual and reproductive health education and rights in our Tasmanian community.

Many of you will know that a major aspect of my role as Governor is community engagement. So, all aspects of community wellbeing are of genuine interest to me. Your engagement in this highly personal and often complex area in sexual and reproductive health is essential for our community and we thank you for it.

I am sure your many clients – individuals, couples, families – feel reassured to have your non-judgemental support and the provision of reliable educational and medical advice from Family Planning Tasmania.

In my community engagement role, I constantly host groups here or travel around our State talking to a wide variety of people. We are fortunate to have so many entities working to help Tasmanians. Let me give you just a few examples included among my patronages:

- A Fairer World engages with schools and workplaces to encourage positive social change through prevention of prejudice and discrimination;

- the Beacon Foundation supports, empowers and inspires young people at school to think about and decide their working future;
- Connect 42 focuses on language and literacy to work positively with homeless and otherwise disadvantaged individuals and groups in prisons, and schools.
- Eat Well Tasmania raises awareness of healthy eating and supports Tasmanians to enjoy cooking and eating seasonal, local food. In this respect at Government House, we have begun a community garden in one of our paddocks and we provide produce to community groups and, in partnership with Eat Well, School Food Matters and Loaves and Fishes, give school students an opportunity to learn about fresh produce and link them to volunteering and food distribution.
- Karinya Young Women's Service in Launceston provides crisis accommodation and safe spaces;
- And 26TEN helps adults who struggle with literacy.

These are just a few patronage examples. It is inspiring to know that across our island, we have so many community organisations and groups, worthy like yours, and so dedicated to improving the lives of our fellow Tasmanians.

Many congratulations again on your 50th anniversary of Family Planning Tasmania. May I also acknowledge that at this 50-year anniversary, it must be energising for you to have the trifecta of your new Board Chair, new CEO and brand new Strategic Plan!

Thank you. David ...

[invites Chair Colin White to respond, followed by CEO Lalla McKenzie]